



Volume 21 | Issue 3

Article 4

1976

Dedication to William H. Hastie

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Recommended Citation

Collins J. Seitz, *Dedication to William H. Hastie*, 21 Vill. L. Rev. 431 (1976).

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1975-1976]

THIRD CIRCUIT REVIEW

Dedication

To

WILLIAM H. HASTIE

The Board of Editors of

THE VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW

humbly dedicates this year's Third Circuit Review.

WILLIAM H. HASTIE

On April 14, 1976, this country lost one of its most brilliant judicial exemplars, William Henry Hastie. I shall not dwell on his triumphs over factors which would have thwarted a lesser man. Rather, I would like to write of a colleague of some 10 years on the federal appeals bench.

Bill Hastie was a very private person. This characteristic was accentuated by a cool almost aloof exterior. Yet, in reality, he was one of the most considerate and perceptive persons I have ever known. Nothing was too much trouble to do for a member of the Third Circuit family. Nor was he anything but uniformly courteous to his colleagues of the bench and bar.

Although the term is often abused, as applied to Judge Hastie, the word "class" fits precisely. He listened to you with patience whether you spoke nonsense or words of wisdom. While he did not suffer fools gladly, he rarely showed his impatience.

Bill Hastie was an intellectual. Yet he also delighted in athletics whether as a participant or an observer. In casual banter with his colleagues, none was more delightful or more restrained. He kept his own counsel yet shared liberally of his wisdom when asked for it.

As Chief Judge for five years I can recall numerous instances when I called on him for advice. It was cheerfully given but, above all, was always in terms of suggestions. It was invariably formulated in terms which took into consideration the human equation. He was a true team player.

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Judge William Hastie will be sorely missed by his peers and by society in ways too numerous to mention. He has, however, left us a living legacy in his words of wisdom both within and without the law. Above all, we shall be refreshed in the future by a spirit which reflected the Divine spark in a very special way.

I commend the *Villanova Law Review* for dedicating its annual Third Circuit Review to Judge Hastie.

COLLINS J. SEITZ,
Chief Judge,
U. S. Court of Appeals
for the Third Circuit.